241 significant portion of the equipment was ruined. In agricultural production, the country is now (1955) about to reach the pre-war level, except in cattle raising, which still lags far behind. The periodical food-shortages in Hungary are due more to the increased export (to the USSR and other People's Democracies) and to the sabotage work of the peasants than to low productivity of the land.

134 241 The soil of the middle part of the country — on the two sides of the Danube and in the Southern plains between the Danube and Tisza — is a very fertile black top soil similar to the chernozem (BLACK EARTH) of the Ukraine. Another excellent strip of soil lies along the former inundation area of the Tisza; it is rather brownish soil which turns black when wet. These soils produce a wheat of excellent quality and good corn. The center of this agricultural area is the southern part of the Great Plains. The chief potato-producing areas are the northwestern part of the country, the Kunság, all of which have a rather sandy soil. The same sandy soil yields large quantities of rye, grapes and other fruits. In Transdanubia and Northern Hungary — from the northwestern shore of the Balaton up into the northern part of the country — there is a hilly and partly mountainous region where forestry predominates, with occasional cattle breeding and agriculture;

since part of this region is covered with volcanic soils, it has excellent wines. 134 241

The northwestern part of Transdanubia is the most intensively farmed area in Hungary. Some parts of this area are sandy.

The meteorological conditions of the Carpathian Basin combined with a variety of soils offer rich and varied products to the inhabitants. 132 The Great Plains have a typically continental climate. The yearly precipitation is 500-600 mm. With a yearly average temperature of only 10 centigrades (due to the frequent -30°C winter colds), the amount of sunshine reaching this area in the summer equals that of the French Riviera. There is a relatively large number of hours of sunshine (1,900-2,000 annually on the Great Plains) which gives to the crops greater resistance to parasites, increases their power of germination and facilitates storage and transportation. The climate of Transdanubia constitutes a transition between the continental climate of the lowlands and the more coastal climate of the West European countries.

The chief crop in Hungary is wheat, and cereals in general. Corn 243 production equals that of wheat and is used primarily for fattening stock.

Good quality tobacco is being produced on some 8,000 acres of [249] Hungarian soil, especially in sandy areas.

9: Eppstein S-4 (no date) 1945 EC1 Hungary EC1

from each courtyard by a great fanfare on peculiar long trumpets of traditional shape. The swine, even more numerous, are usually in charge of an older man, but he, too, has his trumpet and his special call; and horse, cow or pig knows without error not only which tune he must obey in the morning, but also into which courtyard he must turn in the evening as the cavalcade proceeds down the village street, its guardian behind it, in a great cloud of dust. Only the geese, which are entrusted to the charge of little girls (the story of the goose-girl at the well surely originated in Hungary) are not woken by special music, which they supply by their own cackling. The communal pasture outside each village and the huge pond in the middle of it, with its geese and ducks, are common to nearly every Hungarian village throughout the country.

NATURE OF THE SOIL. There is much uniformity, too, in the cultivation. Huge fields of wheat or maize meet the eye everywhere. Nearly all the Hungarian soil is of the same type; a porous loess, which hardens in the higher areas to a dusty limestone, and crumbles in the flats into a loose sand. Through this there run comparatively few rivers, although those few—the Danube, the Tisza and their tributaries—are large and very important for the life of the country. Apart from them, water does not run in small streams, but collects in lakes and ponds, large or small, whence it eventually soaks its way underground to join the rivers. Thus in the plain it is rare to find a spring on or near the surface; on the other hand, almost anywhere

10:Viski E-4, 5 (no date) 1932 EC1 Hungary EC1

527 wine is like having a wedding without music. According
245 to ancient custom, the gathering of the grapes is not serious work: that is, only half of it is serious, its other half is made up of amusement. It is part of the tradition that the work shall be unpaid — and one does not look a gift horse in the mouth. It is like the help volunteered for picking maize and plucking feathers, or for reaping the harvest or helping to build a house in the Szekler country, where all relations, friends and neighbours co-operate and in exchange for a few turns of work receive a few glasses of wine or turns of dancing. Of course the gipsies cannot be missing from the gathering of the grapes. In ancient times they had pipes, later on gipsy players of stirring, undisciplined Hungarian songs. But why have discipline in enjoyment: why use a breake when the cart is going up hill?

[192] In Hungarian the process of gathering the grapes is expressed by one word: *Szüret*. When a Hungarian has an unexpected joy, when he has hopes of a great success, when a vista of unforeseen possibilities opens up before him, surpassing his most daring expectations, he expresses his joy with the one word: *Szüret!*

245 The Hungarian vineyards afford pleasure and gaiety,
273 they deserve affection and sacrifices. The volcanic soil of
[134] the Hungarian vineyards is unsurpassed in any other part of the world. It yields the golden coloured «aszu» of Tokaj, which according to a Hungarian saying revives even the dead, the red wine of Eger called «bull's blood», the sweet poison of Badacsony or Somlyó which makes the dumb speak and forces even diplomats to tell the truth! Long experience has ripened the Hungarian proverb: truth is found in wine; «in vino veritas» as our Latin speaking forbears used to say. Wine is the national drink of the Hungarians. Thus does a popular song express this truth: